

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 EB-08 COME-00 INT-05 TRSE-00
IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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APPROVED BY ARA:RGARELLANO
ARA/AND/E: MR. ALLITTO (DRAFT)
OES/OFA: MR. NEGROPONTE (DRAFT)
-----031054 231916Z /64

P R 231838Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 160440

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EFIS, EC

SUBJECT:GOE UPSET BY SAN JOSE TUNA MEETING

REF: QUITO 4096

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES CHARGE'S CLARIFICATION TO
AMBASSADOR PONCE OF US POSITION ON MEXICAN/COSTA RICAN
DENUNCIATION OF IATTC AS DESCRIBED PARA 5 OF REFTTEL.
FOLLOWING MAY BE SHARED WITH HIM. AS AMBASSADOR PONCE
KNOWS, US HAS REPEATEDLY GONE ON PUBLIC RECORD TO CALL
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FOR PARTICIPATION OF ALL NATIONS OFF WHOSE COASTS TUNA
ARE FISHED IN ANY NEGOTIATION ON A NEW REGIME FOR THE
MANAGEMENT OF TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC. ECUADOR IS
CONSIDERED PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT IN THAT CONTEXT,
WHICH IS WHY A TEAM WAS CONSTITUTED LAST JANUARY SPECI-
FICALLY FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ECUADOREANS. THIS
US POSITION, WHICH HAS NOT CHANGED, OBVIOUSLY IS NOT

CONSISTENT WITH A FOREGONE CONCLUSION THAT AGREEMENT WITH ECUADOR, OR THE OTHER PACIFIC NATIONS OFF WHOSE COASTS TUNA ARE FOUND, IS IMPOSSIBLE.

2. GOE AND USG AGREE ON THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF TUNA, AND ON NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO CONSERVE PORPOISES. DIFFERING JURIDICAL POSITIONS MEAN WE WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY AGREEING ON KEY ISSUES SUCH AS LICENSES AND THE STATUS OF WATERS OFF THE COASTAL STATES. HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT WAS ENCOURAGED BY FORTHCOMING AND NON-CONFRONTATIONAL TONE OF JANUARY MEETING TO BELIEVE THAT EVEN ON THE TOUGHEST ELEMENTS AGREEMENT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

3. SAN JOSE MEETING PROPOSED BY COSTA RICA IS NOT THE NEXT SESSION OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARIES, NOR IS IT ENTIRELY A US INITIATIVE. BASICALLY IT RESULTS FROM COSTA RICA'S DESIRE, IN THE WAKE OF ITS (AND MEXICO'S) DENUNCIATION OF IATTC, NOT TO CONTRIBUTE TO A SUDDEN AND POSSIBLY LENGTHY HIATUS IN TUNA MANAGEMENT IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC WITH POSSIBLY ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE US. IT IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT THE PRESENT IATTC COULD BE MODIFIED TO MEET COSTA RICA'S AND MEXICO'S NEEDS, BUT COSTA RICA, WITH OUR SUPPORT, CALLED THE JUNE 28 MEETING TO SEE WHAT CAN BE SALVAGED.

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4. US OPPOSES ENDING IATTC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM BEFORE A SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION (OR MODIFIED IATTC) IS IN PLACE, BECAUSE OF DANGER TO THE RESOURCE, AND HAS AGREED TO ATTEND THE MEETING. WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED WHETHER MEXICO WILL ALSO ATTEND; WITHOUT MEXICO, COSTA RICAN INITIATIVE CANNOT PROSPER ALTHOUGH IT MAY PROVE USEFUL FORUM FOR PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS PRIOR TO A LARGER CONFERENCE LATER THIS SUMMER.

5. AS WAS DONE AFTER LAST PLENIPOTENTIARIES MEETING, USG WILL CONSULT CLOSELY WITH NON-PARTICIPATING TUNA COUNTRIES AFTER SAN JOSE MEETING SO THEY ARE FULLY INFORMED ABOUT THE STATE OF PLAY AND IF, AS WE EXPECT, NEXT PHASE OF THIS EXERCISE IS A BROADER-BASED CONFERENCE IN EARLY AUGUST TO NEGOTIATE SUCCESSOR REGIME TO IATTC, WE WILL SUPPORT IDEA OF DIRECT ECUADOREAN AND PERUVIAN PARTICIPATION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS ALSO MEXICAN POSITION ON THE ISSUE. VANCE

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